

SECRET EYES ONLY

OLC 69-0324

10 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with William Woodruff, on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, re the Director's Letter to Senator Richard B. Russell (D., Ga.) on the Warren Unna Column

1. I hand carried to William Woodruff, on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today the Director's letter to Senator Richard B. Russell (D. Ga.) expressing concern over statements attributed to several senators by Warren Unna in his column in today's Washington Post. These statements had to do with the resolution of satellite photography.

2. When I told Woodruff the nature of the letter, he asked that I stay in his office while he carried it to Senator Russell. I also mentioned to Woodruff that William Miller, Staff Assistant to Senator John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.), had contacted us and requested that we brief the Senator and himself on the ABM programs tomorrow morning at 1030 hours. I advised Woodruff further that it was the Director's intention (in accordance with his understanding with Senator Russell regarding the handling of requests from Senators for oral briefings) to brief Senator Cooper alone, excluding Mr. Miller.

3. Upon his return from Senator Russell's office, Woodruff advised me that the Senator had expressed grave concern about the disclosures in the Unna column, saying that he was particularly disappointed in Senator Milton Young (R., N. Dak.). He then told Woodruff that he "just might discontinue CIA Subcommittee meetings altogether." Woodruff added that it was quite likely that Senator Russell would call the Director personally about this.

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4. With regard to the Cooper briefing, Woodruff said that when he mentioned this to Senator Russell the Senator replied "well if they are dumb enough to brief him, then it is their problem." I pointed out to Woodruff again that the Director's decision was in keeping with the understanding he had with Senator Russell on this subject and asked Woodruff what other action he would recommend. Woodruff obviously had no suggested alternatives and merely commented that he appreciated the fact that the Director was in a difficult situation in this regard and couldn't merely refuse to brief a member of the Senate.

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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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